



WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

FOR SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

GRANT, GREEN, IOWA, LAFAYETTE, RICHLAND, & ROCK

June 2004

Unemployment rates decline

Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman announced that 63 of Wisconsin's 72 counties had lower unemployment rates in May of 2004 than May of 2003, while 9 had higher unemployment rates this year than last year.

"For the third consecutive month, a majority of Wisconsin counties reported improved unemployment rates

struggle with unemployment in some pockets of the state."

The county with the greatest improvement from the prior year was Door County, which had an 8.5 percent unemployment rate last May, but a 5.7 percent rate this May. Sixty-six counties had a lower rate in May than they had experienced in April, while three counties had higher rates in May than they had in April, and three coun-

ties were unchanged. As usually occurs this time of the year in Wisconsin, the greatest month-to-month improvement was experienced in the northern tier of the state. Iron County's unemployment rate was 12.7 percent in April and 7.7 percent in May. Vilas County went from 9.0 percent in April to

5.2 percent in May. Bayfield County went from 8.9 percent in April to 5.6 percent in May.

The lowest unemployment rate in the state was reported in Dane County at 2.5 percent. Ozaukee County with a 3.1 percent unemployment rate and La Crosse County with a 3.3 percent rate were not far behind. Thirteen counties in Wisconsin had unemployment rates lower than 4.0 percent. The highest unemployment rate in Wisconsin was reported for Menominee County at 10.9 percent. Oconto was next with an 8.3 percent rate, while Langlade County had a 7.9 percent rate.

| Labor Force Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted) | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| | Janesville-Beloit MSA | Wisconsin (000s) | United States (000s) |
| Current month: May 2004 | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 79,100 | 3,114.6 | 146,974 |
| Employment | 74,000 | 2,956.5 | 138,772 |
| Unemployment | 5,100 | 158.1 | 8,203 |
| Unemployment rate | 6.5% | 5.1% | 5.6% |
| Change from one month ago | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 300 | 14.3 | 233 |
| Employment | 200 | 0.2 | 196 |
| Unemployment | 100 | 14.0 | 39 |
| Unemployment rate | 0.2% | 0.5% | 0.0% |
| Change from one year ago | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 300 | 38.2 | 512 |
| Employment | 400 | 54.9 | 1,267 |
| Unemployment | -100 | -16.6 | (754) |
| Unemployment rate | -0.1% | -0.6% | -0.5% |

Note: All estimates are preliminary and based on place of residence.

in May, and for the fifth consecutive month most counties reported lower rates than one year ago," Secretary Gassman said. "These are important developments for the state's economy in the recovery process. We continue to watch these changes with a watchful eye on the those counties that continue to

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Southwestern Wisconsin Workforce Development Area

| May 2004 | Grant | Green | Iowa | Lafayette | Richland | Rock | Region | Non MSA's * | Wisconsin |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--------|--------|-----------|----------|--------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| Civilian Labor Force** | 25,856 | 17,864 | 14,768 | 7,513 | 9,052 | 79,120 | 154,173 | 75,053 | 3,098,839 |
| Employed | 24,759 | 17,000 | 14,257 | 7,161 | 8,597 | 74,323 | 146,097 | 71,774 | 2,951,450 |
| Unemployed | 1,097 | 864 | 511 | 352 | 455 | 4,797 | 8,076 | 3,279 | 147,389 |
| Unemployment rate(%) | 4.2 | 4.8 | 3.5 | 4.7 | 5.0 | 6.1 | 5.2 | 4.4 | 4.8 |
| Total Nonfarm (NFWS) *** | 19,600 | 14,200 | 11,600 | 3,640 | 6,200 | 67,700 | 122,900 | 55,200 | 2,833,800 |
| Total Private | 14,500 | 12,100 | 10,100 | 2,490 | 5,000 | 59,000 | 103,200 | 44,200 | 2,413,900 |
| Goods Producing | 3,500 | 3,500 | 1,100 | 570 | 1,900 | 17,800 | 28,400 | 10,600 | 639,400 |
| Service Producing | 16,100 | 10,600 | 10,500 | 3,080 | 4,300 | 49,900 | 94,500 | 44,600 | 2,194,400 |
| Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs | 600 | 500 | 500 | 160 | 200 | 3,000 | 5,000 | 2,000 | 131,000 |
| Manufacturing | 2,800 | 3,000 | 600 | 410 | 1,800 | 14,800 | 23,400 | 8,600 | 508,400 |
| Trade | 2,700 | 3,100 | 6,100 | 690 | 1,100 | 12,800 | 26,500 | 13,700 | 440,500 |
| Transportation & Utilities | 400 | 300 | 300 | 180 | 100 | 2,500 | 3,800 | 1,300 | 322,800 |
| Financial Activities | 1,000 | 400 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 2,100 | 4,200 | 2,100 | 159,400 |
| Education and Health Services | 2,400 | 2,100 | 1,000 | 300 | 800 | 8,900 | 15,400 | 6,500 | 375,400 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 1,700 | 1,200 | 900 | 220 | 500 | 6,300 | 10,800 | 4,500 | 257,800 |
| Info., Prof.& Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs | 2,700 | 1,600 | 500 | 320 | 400 | 8,600 | 14,200 | 5,600 | 435,600 |
| Total Government | 5,090 | 2,060 | 1,480 | 1,150 | 1,220 | 8,700 | 19,700 | 11,000 | 419,900 |
| Federal | 180 | 90 | 90 | 70 | 60 | 300 | 800 | 500 | 29,300 |
| State | 2,000 | 40 | 100 | 40 | 200 | 500 | 2,900 | 2,400 | 100,300 |
| Local | 2,910 | 1,930 | 1,290 | 1,040 | 960 | 7,900 | 16,000 | 8,100 | 290,300 |
| Change from one month ago | April 2004 | | | | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force** | -120 | -10 | 130 | 60 | -50 | 800 | 760 | 0 | 17,200 |
| Employed | -140 | 20 | 120 | 70 | -10 | 600 | 690 | 100 | 27,700 |
| Unemployed | 20 | -30 | 10 | -10 | -40 | 100 | 70 | -100 | -10,500 |
| Unemployment rate(%) | 0.0 | -0.2 | 0.1 | -0.2 | -0.4 | 0.1 | 0.0 | -0.1 | -0.3 |
| Total Nonfarm (NFWS)*** | -20 | 80 | 160 | 60 | 20 | 900 | 1,200 | 300 | 36,600 |
| Percent change NFWS last month | -0.1% | 0.6% | 1.4% | 1.7% | 0.4% | 1.3% | 1.0% | 0.5% | 1.3% |
| Total Private | 300 | 100 | 200 | 60 | 0 | 800 | 1,400 | 600 | 37,200 |
| Goods Producing | 100 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 0 | 100 | 300 | 200 | 10,500 |
| Service Producing | -200 | 100 | 100 | 50 | 0 | 800 | 900 | 100 | 26,100 |
| Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs | 70 | 40 | 30 | 10 | 10 | 200 | 400 | 200 | 6,100 |
| Manufacturing | 70 | -20 | 0 | 10 | 10 | -100 | 0 | 100 | 4,400 |
| Trade | 30 | 10 | -20 | 10 | 10 | 300 | 300 | 0 | 5,800 |
| Transportation & Utilities | 10 | 0 | 20 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4,000 |
| Financial Activities | 10 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 900 |
| Education and Health Services | -10 | -10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 900 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 60 | 80 | 120 | 10 | 10 | 400 | 700 | 300 | 15,600 |
| Info., Prof.& Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs | 20 | -50 | 0 | 10 | -10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,400 |
| Total Government | -280 | 30 | 0 | 0 | -10 | 100 | -200 | -300 | -600 |
| Federal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -200 |
| State | -360 | 0 | 20 | 10 | 0 | 100 | -200 | -300 | -800 |
| Local | 70 | 30 | -10 | 0 | -10 | 0 | 100 | 100 | 400 |
| Change from one year ago | May 2003 | | | | | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force* | 260 | -30 | 620 | 120 | 240 | 400 | 1,600 | 1,200 | 38,600 |
| Employed | 550 | 210 | 110 | 210 | 140 | 500 | 2,300 | 1,800 | 55,300 |
| Unemployed | -290 | -250 | -90 | -90 | 100 | -200 | -800 | -600 | -16,700 |
| Unemployment rate(%) | -1.2 | -1.4 | -0.8 | -1.3 | 1.0 | -0.2 | -0.6 | -0.9 | -0.6 |
| Total Nonfarm (NFWS)*** | 210 | 10 | 480 | 40 | 20 | 0 | 800 | 800 | 37,800 |
| Percent change NFWS last year | 1.1% | 0.0% | 4.4% | 1.1% | 0.3% | 0.0% | 0.6% | 1.4% | 1.4% |
| Total Private | 300 | 0 | 500 | 50 | 100 | 300 | 1,200 | 900 | 42,300 |
| Goods Producing | 0 | -100 | 0 | -10 | 0 | -800 | -900 | -100 | 3,000 |
| Service Producing | 200 | 100 | 500 | 50 | 0 | 800 | 1,700 | 900 | 34,800 |
| Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs | 40 | 10 | 0 | 20 | 10 | -100 | 0 | 100 | -800 |
| Manufacturing | -10 | -140 | -20 | -30 | 20 | -700 | -900 | -200 | 3,800 |
| Trade | -80 | 70 | 410 | 20 | -30 | 700 | 1,100 | 400 | 11,600 |
| Transportation & Utilities | -20 | 10 | -20 | -10 | 0 | -100 | -100 | 0 | 6,800 |
| Financial Activities | 20 | 20 | 20 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 100 | 2,400 |
| Education and Health Services | 110 | -20 | 50 | 20 | 60 | 100 | 300 | 200 | 11,300 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 90 | 40 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 200 | 400 | 200 | 5,700 |
| Info., Prof.& Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs | 130 | 20 | 20 | 0 | 10 | 200 | 400 | 200 | 9,700 |
| Total Government | -60 | 10 | 0 | -10 | -60 | -300 | -400 | -100 | -4,500 |
| Federal | 0 | 0 | -10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -400 |
| State | 20 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -2,800 |
| Local | -80 | 10 | 0 | -10 | -60 | -300 | -400 | -100 | -1,300 |

* Five counties, excluding Rock County ** Includes participants residing in area. *** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers. NFWS data is benchmarked to 3/2003